

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 NEA-10 AID-05
/046 W

-----082253Z 122440 /64

P R 081351Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2010
INFO USMISSION UN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 4640

FOR IO/DHP - CHESTER NORRIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, OVIP, UN, UNRWA
SUBJECT: INVITATION TO VISIT UNRWA OPERATIONS VIENNA AND
NEAR EAST FIELD OFFICES

1. UNRWA COMMISSIONER-GENERAL MCELHINEY HAS REQUESTED UNIDO
MISSION TRANSMIT BY CABLE FOLLOWING TEXT OF LETTER DATED
JUNE 8 FROM MCELHINEY TO NORRIS, IO/DHP:

QTE THIS LETTER IS TO CONFIRM IN WRITING MY EARLIER ORAL
INVITATION TO YOU TO VISIT UNRWA'S HEADQUARTERS IN AMMAN
AND VIENNA AND ITS FIELD OFFICES AND INSTALLATIONS IN
THE NEAR EAST. I KNOW IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET AWAY FROM
WASHINGTON BUT I WOULD STRONGLY URGE YOU TO TAKE THE
TIME TO MAKE THE VISIT. WE'RE AN OPERATIONAL AGENCY AND
I DON'T THINK YOU CAN FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT WE DO, HOW
OUR ACTIVITIES RELATE TO THE GENERAL SITUATION IN THE
NEAR EAST OR WHAT U.S. INTERESTS ARE SERVED BY UNRWA
UNTIL YOU SEE FOR YOURSELF HOW WE FUNCTION.

I UNDERSTAND THAT CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN OUR
PROGRAMS MAY LEAD TO FORMATION OF A STUDY MISSION MADE
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UP OF STAFF FROM THE OFFICES OF SENATORS AND CONGRESS-
MEN. I ASSUME THE MEMBERS OF THE MISSION WOULD WANT
TO SEE ME AND HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT HEADS AND WOULD
WANT TO VISIT OUR FIELD OFFICES AND INSTALLATIONS IN
THE NEAR EAST. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU AND THE MISSION
COMBINE YOUR TRIPS SINCE BOTH OF YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT
THE SAME THINGS.

I MUST ATTEND A MEETING OF HEADS OF UN AGENCIES IN GENEVA 5-7 JULY BUT WILL BE BACK IN VIENNA THE EVENING OF THE 7TH. I PROPOSE THAT YOU AND THE MISSION MEMBERS ARRIVE IN VIENNA ON FRIDAY, 8 JULY. OVER THE WEEKEND, THE COMPTROLLOER AND I CAN GIVE YOU A GENERAL BRIEFING ON THE AGENCY AND DETAILED INFORMATION ON FINANCES. THE HEADS OF THE PERSONNEL, LEGAL AND RELIEF SERVICES OFFICES WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE IF NEEDED. ON SUNDAY OR MANDAY, 10 OR 11 JULY, YOU AND THE MISSION, WITH ME ACCOMPANYING WOULD FLY TO THE NEAR EAST (EXACTLY WHERE DEPENDING ON WHETHER YOU AGREE WITH THESE BEGINNING DATES AND ON PLANE SCHEDULES). AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER ARRIVAL IN THE NEAR EAST, YOU WOULD BE BRIEFED BY THE HEADS OF THE EDUCATION AND HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, WHO ARE IN THE AMMAN OFFICE OF THE TEMPORARILY RELOCATED HEADQUARTERS. WE WOULD VISIT UNRWA INSTALLATIONS AND FIELD OFFICES IN AT LEAST SYRIA, JORDAN AND THE WEST BANK AND, IF YOU HAVE TIME, GAZA. FOR SECURITY REASONS, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT YOU OR THE MISSION SHOULD TRAVEL TO LEBANON. UNRWA HAS SCHOOLS, VOCATIONAL AND TEACHER TRAINING CENTERS, MEDICAL FACILITIES AND RATION DISTRIBUTION CENTERS IN ALL FIVE FIELDS AND YOU WOULD NOT SEE ANYTHING UNIQUE LEBANON. I DO NOT BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE ANY PROBLEM IN ARRANGING VISITS TO CAMPS, SO LONG AS THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES ARE INFORMED AND, IN ANY CASE, AT LEAST SOME OF THE UNRWA INSTALLATIONS YOU WOULD WANT TO SEE ARE IN CAMPS. AGAIN, LEBANON WOULD BE THE EXCEPTION IF YOU FELT YOU HAD TO GO THERE. AS YOU MAY KNOW, IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1969, THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITY FOR REFUGEES, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE CAMPS, TO THE PLO AND I DO NOT THINK YOU WOULD WANT US TO COORDINATE WITH THE PLO YOUR VISIT TO A CAMP IN LEBANON.

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2011

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FOR IO/DHP - CHESTER NORRIS

A VISIT TO SYRIA, JORDAN AND THE WEST BANK WOULD TAKE A FULL WEEK. GAZA WOULD ADD A DAY AND LEBANON ANOTHER TWO DAYS. THESE WOULD BE MINIMUM TIMES IF ALL PLANE SCHEDULES, BORDER CROSSINGS BY CAR, AND THE THREE DIFFERENT SABBATHS IN THE AREA FITTED IN PERFECTLY WITH OUR ITINERARY AND SCHEDULES.

PLEASE LET ME HAVE YOUR REACTIONS TO THIS GENERAL PLAN. IF IT SOUNDS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY AND YOU CAN TELL ME HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE IN THE PARTY, WE WILL WORK OUT AN ITINERARY AND DETAILED SCHEDULES IN EACH FIELD. WE WILL THEN LET YOU KNOW WHAT PLANE RESERVATIONS TO MAKE VISAS TO GET, AND OTHER THINGS TO ARRANGE AND WILL SEND YOU SOME BASIC BRIEFING MATERIAL. THE LONGEST ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIRED -- AT LEAST TWO WEEKS -- WILL BE FOR THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT CLEARANCE FOR THE CROSSING FROM JORDAN TO THE WEST BANK, UNLESS THE U.S. EMBASSY IN AMMAN CAN GET THE CLEARANCE FOR YOU IN LESS TIME. YOU SHOULD ALSO CHECK IN THE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON WHAT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS U.S. OFFICIALS MUST HAVE FOR TRAVEL IN THE NEAR EAST WHEN THEY WILL VISIT ARAB COUNTRIES, ISRAEL AND ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ON THE SAME TRIP.

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I WILL BE IN RIYADH AND CAIRO FROM 9 THROUGH 16 JUNE. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS DURING MY ABSENCE, THE ACTION OFFICER WILL BE MRS. ANGELA GHANEM IN MY OFFICE IN VIENNA. UNQTE.

2. ORIGINAL COPY OF LETTER BEING AIRPOUCHED TO NORRIS

3. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT. STIBRAVY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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